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NEWS RELEASE

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Environment Department Extends “Boil Water Advisory” for South Hills Water Company in Bernalillo County

Consumers are urged to continue to Boil Water Prior to Drinking

Albuquerque, NM -- The New Mexico Environment Department’s Drinking Water Bureau continues to urge consumers that use the South Hills Water Company water system to boil prior to drinking. The initial “boil water advisory” for the system was first issued on August 10, 2011.

Recent follow-up tests results indicate the water still is not at an adequate quality level to lift the advisory. Members of the Environment Department’s Drinking Water Bureau are back on site today to work with South Hills Water Company to address the system problems. The Bureau will release any new information regarding future test results as soon as that information becomes available.

South Hills Water Company serves approximately 200 homes in southwest Albuquerque near the intersection of Coors Blvd and Don Felipe Road of this finding.

This water service is separate from consumers served by the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority.

NMED originally issued the “boil water advisory” after bacteriological contamination (E. coli) was detected and confirmed in drinking water samples from the system. The NMED continues to monitor the situation and provide technical assistance to the system and will continue to do so until sample results indicate the absence of contamination.

The advisory only applies to the drinking water from the South Hills Water Company water system, and does not extend to the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Utility Authority water system or any other surrounding water system.

Consumers of the South Hills Water Company water system are advised to continue boiling the water for five minutes before drinking, cooking, dishwashing and bathing until the advisory is lifted. The presence of E. coli in water indicates that the water may have been in contact with sewage or animal

wastes, and could contain disease-causing organisms. Most strains of E. coli are harmless and live in the intestines of healthy humans and animals. However, a positive test for E. coli in the drinking water supply may indicate the presence of dangerous strains of E. coli or other disease-causing organisms. These types of organisms may cause severe gastrointestinal illness and, in rare cases, death. Children, the elderly and immune-compromised individual are at an increased risk for illness.

For more information, call NMED Communication Director Jim Winchester at (505) 231-8800 or Nora Romero, Drinking Water Bureau I Manager at (505) 222-9531.

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